

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 22, 2004, **KARLISS LYTTLE**, age 54, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois.

LYTTLE was sentenced to 240 months imprisonment, ten years supervised release, and was fined \$500. LYTTLE had previously been convicted following a jury trial of one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and two counts of distribution of crack cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841.

A number of co-defendants have previously been sentenced in this case. Co-conspirator **JOHN PENROD** was previously sentenced to 432 months. Co-conspirator **JAMES D. SUGGS** was previously sentenced to 192 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **ROBERT L. BARBER** was previously sentenced to 151 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **GEORGE W. McNAIR** was previously sentenced to 312 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **KEVIN J. DAVENPORT** was previously sentenced to 188 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **LAWRENCE BRYANT** was previously sentenced to 108 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **MARTY BRYANT** was previously sentenced to 235 months imprisonment.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in Jefferson County Circuit Court.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.